FOUR CORNERS WARD NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2000

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Bishop David Ward

Exchanging Gifts

Long ago, before television, the popular items being marketed were clock radios. They were about the size of a large lunch box and plugged into the wall socket. AM only, no stereo. Some of them even had advanced technology of turn-on and timed turn-off features. Up to then, "the radio" was a large, dresser-sized, tube filled box that sat in the living room that we all gathered around to hear programs like "The Green Hornet," "The Lone Ranger," and "The Cinnamon Bear."

Clock radios were small, compact, and could turn themselves on and off. Costing more than a week's wages, they were a sought-after item that particular Christmas. I remember how my siblings and I were to find out that Father had bought one for Mother, and Mother had bought one for Father. Even better, they had them hidden in my sisters' room, one under one bed and the other under the other bed.

We could hardly contain ourselves during the days before Christmas. While keeping the secret, we kids would giggle, wink, and snicker our way through every meal. We knew that these gifts represented months of scrimping and saving. We knew that we could not afford one, let alone two of these new radios.

It was truly a sacrifice. What a joy it was on Christmas morning for us to see Mom and Dad exchange their gifts, and for them to enjoy each other's sacrifice and love and bringing about the other's happiness.

There is another gift exchange we all know about. That is the exchange of sacrifices between Jesus Christ and us. Jesus paid the demand for justice for our mistakes and imperfections. Without it, we would never have the opportunity for eternal happiness and exaltation. It was an agonizing sacrifice. Our gift, in exchange, is a sacrifice, also. We take upon ourselves Christ's name; we forsake worldly pleasures, self-indulgence and sin. We become submissive to God's will, not our will, and try to

(continued on page 2)

KONRAD'S KORNER

By Konrad Juengling

This month, the topic for Konrad's Korner is "Sacrifice."

"Sacrifice" is a form of worship. Sacrifices were the burning of animals in the early days. This was accompanied by prayer, devotion, and dedication, and represented an acknowledgment of the Lord on the part of the individual. It also represented thankfulness to the Lord for His life and blessings upon this earth.

Under the law of Moses, sacrifices were varied and complex, and many rules were given to govern the procedure. There were three kinds of sacrificial offerings, which included: burnt offerings, peace offerings, and sin offerings.

When Jesus came, he fulfilled the Mosaic Law and required from that time forth not burnt offerings, but a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

3rd	First Presidency Satellite Broadcast
4th	Family Home Evening
6th	YM&YW—7 P.M.
7th	Cub Scouts—7 P.M. Temple, Men Initiatory—7 P.M.
9th	YM/YW Tri-Stake Dance (Pringle) Elder's Christmas Party—6 P.M.
10th	Primary Program during Sacrament Meeting
11th	Family Home Evening
12th	Relief Society Personal Enrichment Night—6:30 P.M.
13th	YM&YW—7 P.M.
14th	Cub Scouts—7 P.M. Temple, Sealings—7 P.M.
15th	Ward Christmas Party—6-9 P.M. (Potluck)
16th	Tithing settlement begins (ends on the 31st) School winter break begins
17th	Child of Record Baptisms—5-6:30 Stake Christmas Event—Choir/ music
18th	Family Home Evening Gym closed for refurbishing
20th	YM&YW—7 P.M.
21st	Cub Scouts—7 P.M.
24th	Ward Christmas Program - Sacrament Meeting, 9 A.M.
25th	Christmas Day Family Home Evening
27th	YM&YW—7 P.M.
28th	Stake Blood Drive 2:30-7:30 P.M. Cub Scouts—7 P.M.
30th	Primary Breakfast—8:30 A.M. YM/YW Tri-Stake Dance (Monmouth)
31st	Tithing Settlement ends New Year's Eve

Exchanging Gifts

(Continued from page 1)

become more like Christ in our lives. The successful result is eternal happiness and joy. I hope that we understand that this only works when we do our part. You know what He did for us. What would you do for Him? So, we practice sacrifice every day in our families and lives by sacrificing willingly, out of love, like Jesus Christ did. We learn obedience, repentance, and forgiveness. This makes our sacrifice an exchange on our part. It completes the exchange of gifts in our heavenly family. Can you imagine God and Christ's joy to receive your gift? I pray that we use this Christmas season to exchange our gift with Jesus and God. It will bring happiness beyond our comprehension. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

CHRISTMAS

By Konrad Juengling

Christmas is a time of love and spiritual thinking.
A time of giving presents in remembrance of the three wise men.
The main general pattern? None.
Jesus's rebirth requires no ceremonial tradition.
Christmas is the time of resting peace.
The time when a thin layer of sparkling snow covers the earth as it sleeps quietly.
We linger on past friends and experiences and look back on what
Jesus would do in those bad situations we previously faced.

Now, after it is over, and we lie in our warm beds at night with delicate snowflakes drifting onto the sill, we grow delightfully tired.
Fire crackling and whizzing, with Jack Frost at the window.,
You drift silently off, reminiscent of that wonderful Christmas drifting through your mind as your teddy's nose grows cool.